Russia Arising from Chaos

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Whether the Bolsheviki government will be able to maintain itself remains to be seen. Its suspension of war activities greatly encouraged the military party in Germany, but its revolutionary doctrines may be a greater menace to the central powers than its shells would be. Its propaganda is exerting a profound influence upon its Teutonic neighbors.

The suggestion of peace has found a response in the breasts of the war-worn Austrians and started an agitation which is shaking the dual monarchy and causing mutinies in the land of the kaiser. The sinister motives of Germany have been uncovered and her imperialistic designs against Russian territory exposed.

Recent dispatches indicate that there is a limit beyond which the new government will not go, and its rejection of German terms may more than offset the harm caused by the temporary cessation of hostilities.

The President has dealt wisely with the situation, exhibiting the same infinite patience that he did toward the Mexicans.

THE FUNDAMENTAL FACTS.

The Russian situation undergoes rapid and sometimes violent changes from day to day, but certain underlying facts do not change, and they aid one in making a forecast as to the lines along which permanent progress is probable.

First-It must be remembered that the Russian people have passed through a long period of despotism. Until a few years ago the word Russia was a synonym for tryanny. During the dark night of suffering the people were accustomed to arrest without warning, imprisonment without just cause and execution without trial. During these days desperation brought its fruitage in Nihilism-men, goaded to despair, struck pack with such weapons as they had at hand. Philosophical anarchy became a recognized creed, based upon familiarity with the coercive side of government only. So far as the general government was concerned, it gave the people little idea of the co-operative work which is increasingly undertaken in governments which are to any degree popular in form. The Russian was not accustomed to the invitation, "Let us work together for the common good"; he only knew the threat of "Thou shalt not"-a threat executed without the safeguards of representative government.

DUMA MUST BE CONSIDERED

No judgment as to Russia's present condition or future prospects can be of any value that does not take into consideration the past, with its awful story of cruelty and injustice.

Second—The Duma, with hopes excited only to be stifled, and its tragic experiences, is another fact that must be taken into consideration. The first Duma was dissolved when it was found that the people, when given a voice, expressed themselves in no uncertain language gainst the autocracy under which the masses uffered. A restriction of the franchise made the second Duma less radical than the first, but still too radical for the Czar and his advisers. Each new obstruction which the executive placed in the way of development of representative government added to the force of popular sentiment, which finally swept away the dam with which the government sought to restrain the current of the public opinion.

Third-Finally the moment came when the spirit of revolt spread throughout the land; the covernment forces turned their bayonets against those in authority and drove the Czar into exile. Is it to be wondered at that a people so long oppressed and constrained should have turned liberty into license when once the grip of the ruling class was broken? The Russian people would have been more than human had they exhibited the self-control which is to be expected among those accustomed to the responsibilities of free government.

THE LESSON OF DEMOCRACY Peoples far more advanced in the science of government and in the art of its administration have been frenzied by outrages and intoxicated

Fourth - As the child must be expected to stumble and fall while it is learning to walk, so people must be expected to learn the ways of democracy by experience that may at times be bitter and expensive. The substitution of the rule of one class for the rule of another is likely to be the first effect of an attempt at popular government, so far does the substance lag behind the form.

Those who contribute most to the securing of a change in government quite naturally claim an undue share in the control of the new government, even when they most passionately proclaim their devotion to equality and fraternity. They are likely, too, to be suspicious of those outside of their own group.

We must assume that all men are capable of self-government; to think otherwise would, as Clay expressed it, be a reflection on the Almighty, for it would be equivalent to accusing Him of creating man helpless and then leaving him to be the victim of kings and emperors.

But while all are capable of self-government, some have higher capacity than others, a capacity for better government. People improve in the mass as well as individually. As they grow in virtue, in intelligence and in self-restraint, they learn patience and tolerance, and, above all, they learn that acquiescence in the expressed will of the people is the first principle of republics.

THE HANDICAP OF IGNORANCE

Fifth-It must be remembered, too, that the present situation is complicated by a pro-Gerfan influence. The Berlin government, having every reason to fear the success of a republic, zealously cultivates division and factionalism. If that influence can work in a country like this, as it has worked, deceiving the wellmeaning by intrigue and false rumors, how much more successfully can it operate in a country like Russia, with a large illiterate element to work upon, and without a free, informed public opinion or any form of discussion or recognized medium for expressing the popular will.

Sixth-The revolutionists have had one fact of which they have made diligent use, namely, the seeming unity of the people in support of the doctrine that Russia shall demand neither indemnities nor annexations. Surrendering for themselves all thought of increasing their territory by conquest, they are open to the appeals of all those who argue that they should not make sacrifices to secure for others that which they do not demand for themselves.

Seventh-The two factors upon which the hope of future New Russia rests are time and the almost universal hostility to autocracy.

In time, revenge will run its course, passion will subside, the edge of resentment will be dulled, and reason will resume her sway. "This, too, shall pass away," is the silver lining of every cloud, however dark.

Just now class hatreds are intense, but the very intensity of the struggle will hasten the period of exhaustion, when the parties, too weary to fight longer, will have to become acquainted with each other and compare views. They will then find common ground in a common hatred of the government overthrown, and in a common fear lest disagreement among those newly-set-free may invite a return to that from which they have escaped.

It is evident that the ruling family had so completely alienated the masses that there is no probablity of the Czar being recalled, although his shadow will have an influence in compelling unity. Any suggestion of a return to monarchy will be a signal for co-operation among those

now fighting among themselves. Our country has every reason to extend to Russia a helping hand. Even when Russia was an unlimited monarchy, that nation was friendly to the United States, and now that the Russian people have adopted our theory of government and are trying to translate our political principles in the language of Europe, the hearts of the American people go out to Russia, and our

prayers are offered in her behalf. DICKENS AS A PROPHET

While the world is waiting for order to be restored, it may be well to fe-read the philosophical comments with which Charles Dickens concludes his "Tale of Two Cities." The following words of the great novelist-though written many years ago - as accurately describe the present chaos in Russia as they did the horrors of the French Revolution:

"Along the Paris Streets the death carts rumble, hollow and harsh. Six tumbrils carry the day's wine to La Guillotine. All the devouring and insatiate monsters imagined since imagination could record itself are fused in the PRESIDENT EXTENDS TO RUSSIA THE SYMPATHY OF AMERICA

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, D. C., March 11, says: Words of sympathy and encouragement for the people of Russia in the dark hour of German invasion and internal strife were sent by President Wilson today in a message telegraphed to the American consul general at Moscow for delivery through the congress of soviets, which assembles there tomorrow. The message follows:

"May I not take advantage of the meeting of the congress of the soviets to express the sincere sympathy which the people of the United States feel for the Russian people at this moment when the German power has been thrust in to interrupt and turn back the whole struggle for freedom and substitute the wishes of Germany for the purpose of the people of Russ!a?

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"Although the government of the United States is, unhappily, not now in a position to render the direct and effective aid it would wish to render, I beg to assure the people of Russia, through the congress, that it will avail itself of every opportunity to secure for Russia once more complete sovereignty and independence in her own affairs, and full restoration to her great role in the life of Europe and the modern world. The whole heart of the people of the United States is with the people of Russ'a in the attempt to free themselves forever from autocratic government and become the masters of their own life.

WOODROW WILSON."

one realization, Guillotine. And yet there is not in France, with its rich variety of soil and climate, a blade, a leaf, a root, a sprig, a peppercorn, which will grow to maturity under conditions more certain that those that have produced this horror. Crush humanity out of shape once more, under similar hammers, and it will twist itself into the same tortured forms. Sow the same seeds of rapacious license and oppression

over again and it will surely yield the same fruit according to its kind.

these back again to what they were, thou powerful enchanter, Time, and they shall be seen to be the carriages of absolute monarchs, the equipages of feudal nobles, the toilets of flaring Jezebels, the churches that are not my Father's house, but dens of thieves, the huts of millions. of starving peasants!

"Six tumbrils roll along the streets. Change

"No; the great magician who majestically works out the appointed order of the Creator, never reverses his transformation."

W. J. BRYAN.

Most western newspapers of importance pay for the newspapers they receive, and they have been wondering recently why it is that the Washington Times, which was recently purchased for Arthur Brisbane, is being sent them without any request for payment or for exchange, and with the label indicating that it has been paid for a year in advance. "But it was not long," says the Sloux City Journal, a favored one, "left in the dark. The most casual inspection of the Times discloses that it is more interested in the liquor business, in the overthrow of prohibition where it has been established, and in the defeat of the proposed national prohilition amendment than anything else. Whether it is true hat the money with which Mr. Brisbane purchased the Times was supplied by the liquor interests, the Journal does not know of its own knowledge. The Times, however, bears every evidence that it has been subsidized by the liquor interests."

It isn't the war that is producing the large crop of socialists that is so apparent. The biggest socialist-factory in this country is the packing house district of Chicago, and it has branches wherever the profit-grabbers are at work.